## REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the element "man-hour output means". Claims 1-8 remain pending. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is requested.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious on consideration of Kida in view of Nicholas et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Kida relates to an environment of multiple schedule management systems. A requested task may be accepted by a requestee's schedule management system by negotiating the conditions under which the task will be completed so that requested work can be allocated and accepted by mutual agreement by the schedule management systems of the requestor and the requestee.

Nicolas et al., is not directed to a man-hour management system. Nicolas relates to a system for detecting product loss from a fluid product storage and dispensing means including at least one storage tank.

The following table provides a comparison of claim 1 with the references to the Kida patent which the Examiner detailed in the present Official action. The third column of the table provides comments by Applicant. Consider:

| CLAIM 1 | EXAMINER'S REFERENCE TO KIDA | APPLICANT'S COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|
| 1. (Currently amended) A man-hour management system which manages man-hours for producing automobiles, comprising: | No Ref. | The preamble of claim 1 sets up an environment of "producing automobiles" |
| a server, a database, connection terminals, and an Ethernet; | Col. 3, lines 10-15 | OK |
| said database comprising: a walk man-hour conversion table for performing registration management of standardized man-hours for | Col. 4, lines 54-56 | Ref. relates to "work management means 2", which is an element receiving work data input by the worker. It is not a man-hour conversion table. |

| walks which are generated by works; | | |
|---|---|---|
| a work constituent condition table for performing registration management of constituent works for use in managing the man-hours, and having conditions for each of the constituent works; | Col. 9, lines 41-43 | Ref. relates to "work request response" which is an action by one worker in response to another. It is not a work constituent condition table |
| a standardized man-hour table for performing registration management of standardized man-hour analysis contents and standardized man-hours for the constituent works or the constituent work conditions which are under the registration management of said work constituent condition table; | Col. 9, lines 41-63 | Ref. relates to the format of the "work request response" (see above). It is not a standardized man-hour table. |
| a main man-hour management table for managing item data for constituent works in process units and for performing registration management and/or reorganization management of constituent work items in the units of processes, data being assigned to the constituent work items from said walk man-hour conversion table, said work constituent condition table and said standardized man-hour table, or data being inputted and set to the constituent work items; and | Col. 3, lines 32-67<br>Col. 4, lines 1-36 | Ref. relates to 12 items of data input by a worker to input/output means 1. It is not a main man-hour management table. |

| a process name table for performing registration management and/or reorganization management of names of the processes; and | Col. 3, lines 37-38 | Ref. relates to one of the 12 items of data input (see above). It relates to names but <u>not</u> a process name table. |
|---|---|---|
| <u>said man-hour management system further including</u> man-hour output means including a man-hour output system program, a timing graph output program, a process balancing table output program, a net & loss aggregation table output program, an individual-process specification aggregation table output program, a history management table output program, and a main man-hour management output program, for outputting man-hour information by being assigned data from said main man-hour management table and said process name table. | Col. 9, lines 1-15<br>Col. 7, lines 47-50 | Ref. relates to time chart which shows work name, scheduled days for each, work restrictions, work load per day. This chart is <u>not</u> man-hour output means including the multiple programs listed above in claim 1. |

Kida does not disclose the elements of claim 1. Claim 1 requires a database having a walk man-hour conversion table, a work constituent condition table, a standardized man-hour table, a main man-hour management table, and a process name table. Kida discloses none of these. Rather, the Examiner references work management means 2, the action taken by one worker in response to another in the form of a work request response, the format of the work request response, the twelve items of data which

are input to the input/output means 1 of the system of one worker of Kida, one of the 12 items of data, respectively. That is, the work management means 2 of Kida does not point to a "walk man-hour conversion table" as required by claim 1. The action in the form of the work request response of Kida does not point to the "work constituent condition table" as required by claim 1. The format of the work request response does not point to the "standardized man-hour table" as required by claim 1. The 12 items of data input to the input/output means 1 of Kida do not point to the "main man-hour management table" as required by claim 1. The one of the 12 items of data of Kida do not point to the "process name table" as required by claim 1. Furthermore, the "man-hour output means" of claim 1 which includes several programs for outputting man-hour information is not pointed to by the time chart of Kida. Thus, Kidda is not a proper reference for the various elements of claim 1 as referenced by the Examiner.

The Examiner states that Kida does not teach a net & loss aggregation table output program, but that Nicholas does. Therefore, according to the Examiner, claim 1 is obvious in view of Kida and Nicholas. Nicholas has nothing to do with a man-hour management system. Nicholas is directed to a system for detecting product loss from fluid product storage and dispensing means. There is clearly no motivation for considering the disclosure of Nicholas in view of Kida. The many differences between the elements of claim 1 and Kida, as well as the lack of relevance of Nicholas makes it clear that the present rejection does not make a prima facia case of obviousness of claim 1.
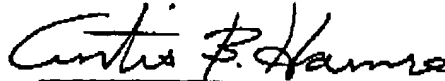
Claims 2-8 are likewise patentable over the references. Applicant does not acquiesce in the rejection of these claims, but it is not necessary to comment any further with respect to them at this time.

In view of the above, the rejection of the claims should be withdrawn, and it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.   Reconsideration and reexamination are requested.   Allowance of claims 1-8 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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